

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR
BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

REF: MOSCOW 499

1. ACCORDING TO OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR OFFICIALS, SOVIETS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN STATE FAIR FOR PAST FOUR YEARS BY SENDING PEOPLE FROM SOV EMB AND NEW YORK OFFICES OF IN-TOURIST AND AEROFLOT TO DISPLAY PICTURES OF THEIR COUNTRY AND PASS OUT PAMPHLETS ON TOURISM. STATE FAIR OFFICIALS DO NOT KNOW WHAT SOVIETS PLAN TO DISPLAY THIS YEAR.

2. THIS IS FIRST YEAR THAT FAIR HAS SENT INVITATION DIRECTLY TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. SOVIETS REPLIED BY TELEGRAM CONFIRMING DATES AND REQUESTING 150 SQUARE METERS OF EXHIBIT SPACE, WHICH IS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE BOOTH THEY HAVE HAD IN THE PAST.

3. DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBIT IN ORDER TO GIVE CON-
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CURRENCE. IF PURPOSE IS TOURISM OR COMMERCIAL PROMOTION,

WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SOVIET PARTICIPATION, BUT
WOULD NOT CONSIDER SOVIET PARTICIPANTS AS SPLEX VISITORS.
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